

Field Day Report - June 24 - 25, 1977
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

*This report by Frank Start - VE3AJ was copied from September 1977
High-Q, Bill Unger - VE3EFC, Editor.*

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held its annual Field Day on June 24 -25, 1977 at the Start Ranch outback (*the home of Frank Start - VE3AJ*). Under the able guidance of Denny Wilkinson - VE3EUI, Chairman of the Field Day Committee the entire operation was a complete success and was enjoyed by all participants.

The following comments and criticism have been gathered from various sources and will be of interest to members of the Club. Let us take first things first. Every Field Day brings something new, this year we had two firsts. This was the first time our enthusiastic hams erected four towers in one field and secondly and equally important to note we had YL operators. Welcome to the Club girls.

And yet another first, we had a fellow ham from south of the border. It was a surprise to have Bill Vinters - WD6AWQ turn up in his man sized mobile home. It was also a surprise to Frank Start - VE3AJ that his bridge was able to hold up under the strain, when Bill navigated his van over the drainage ditch.

There was also a surprise for Bill when the sun went down and the temperature did likewise and he had no long-johns. We hope to hear from Bill when he gets back to sunny California and sends us some snaps. Jim Knott - VE3CVM (of Armstrong, in the bush) also dropped in, welcome to the Club and come again, Jim.

Chief Engineer, Laurie Bridgett - VE3BCD was on duty as usual feeding 60 cycles (?) To the boys, this time the voltage regulator.

Jim Roberts - VE3EDC was active piling up points, nice work Jim. For a few of those taking part, it was their first Field Day, we hope they had a good time. One of the youngest of these was Stephen, who made himself quite useful. One of Ken Rusnak's - VE3EFZ budding hams and he has a lot of them. Those members who have pictures taken during this exercise and suitable for preserving for posterity or something like that, might like to donate copies to the Club album.

The only problem we had during the entire weekend was a bit of QRM that came from a flashing light on one of the tents after hours.

Now about towers, we were fortunate on this occasion to erect and dismantle 4 towers without mishap. A 50-foot tower with added accessories can weight 150 pounds plus, it only has to drop 20 feet to develop 3,000 foot-pounds of potential energy which could reduce our membership badly, if someone gets in the right place at the wrong time. At our Field Day our towers were held up by a few guy wires and perhaps quite a few prayers, but mostly (*they were*) of a temporary nature. The breaking of a guy wire or an unexpected wind could be disastrous. Taking down a tower or the erection of same requires manpower and knowhow, it requires a Chief and a lot of Indians. We suggest that for future Field Days where towers are to be used the Field Day Committee appoint a Chief. We came close to losing a good Secretary Treasurer and we all know they are hard to find.

As usual after the sun had set, tradition has it that we must have a before-retiring-for-the-evening snack. This year as usual we boiled Kolbosa and then wrapped it in bread and smothered it with onions, relish and butter. That, along with our favourite refreshment is a taste treat that can't be beat.